

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office  
 Box PCT  
 Washington, D.C. 20231  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

<b>Date of mailing (day/month/year)</b> 19 October 2000 (19.10.00)	
<b>International application No.</b> PCT/GB00/00620	<b>Applicant's or agent's file reference</b> 23734
<b>International filing date (day/month/year)</b> 22 February 2000 (22.02.00)	<b>Priority date (day/month/year)</b> 22 February 1999 (22.02.99)
<b>Applicant</b> WOOD, Ramsay	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

21 September 2000 (21.09.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Pascal Piriou Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

REC'D 30 MAY 2001

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## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 23734	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/00620	International filing date (day/month/year) 22/02/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 22/02/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A63F1/02		
Applicant WOOD, Ramsay		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.  
  
☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  21/09/2000	Date of completion of this report  28.05.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer  Lucas, P  Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2341  

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/00620

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

### Description, pages:

1,3-6	as originally filed			
2	as received on	03/03/2001	with letter of	03/03/2001

### Claims, No.:

1-6	as received on	03/03/2001	with letter of	03/03/2001
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2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00620

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application.

☒ claims Nos. 5, 6.

because:

☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):  
**see separate sheet**

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 1-4

No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-4

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/00620

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	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-4
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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International application No. PCT/GB00/00620

**Item III**

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

- 1). Claims 5 and 6 relate to schemes, rules or methods of playing games and do not require international preliminary examination, see Rule 67.1(iii).

**Re Item V**

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1). Claims 1-4 fulfil the requirements of Article 33(1) to (4) PCT, as set out below:

**Field of the invention:**

The invention relates to an apparatus for playing a game comprising a pack of playing cards.

**Closest prior art:**

A conventional set of cards

**Object:**

To provide the possibility of playing enhanced games.

**Solution:**

Due to the fact that a number of the playing card backs possess markings that are coordinated with the face designs, it is possible to form a different set based on the markings found on the back the back of the cards, whereby the above object can be achieved.

None of the known prior art documents discloses the distinguishing features of the invention.

**Industrial applicability:**

The invention is considered to be industrially applicable.

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variety of other cards, or may have its own particular role in the game played.

5 The identical back sides of the cards in a pack are identical  
predominantly in order that a card player may hold the cards,  
usually in a single hand and fanned out, with the identical  
backs visible to the other players and the different face  
designs visible only to the player holding the cards. Since the  
10 other players can see the backs, the backs all need to be  
identical in order that the other players cannot detect what  
cards the player holding the cards is holding.

This arrangement of identical backs is effectively necessary for  
competitive card playing games (especially where the game is  
15 played for pecuniary gain), but is not of any particular value  
in games played for entertainment.

US-A-4428582 discloses apparatus for educational games in the  
form of a pack of cards with letters on their faces and numbers  
20 on their backs, each letter being paired with each number once,  
so no two cards are the same, but each letter appears on the  
faces of several (usually 3, 4 or 5) cards. Such a pack may be  
used to play a variety of letter or number games, but cannot be  
used to play any standard card games.

25 I have now found that a variety of entertaining games may be  
produced by constructing a set of playing cards with the face  
sides bearing their conventional, or relatively conventional,  
set of markings and the backs bearing differing designs, but  
30 which are coordinated with the designs on the faces in a  
predetermined fashion. The precise fashion may depend upon the  
nature of the game to be played with the cards. Thus, the  
distinguishing feature of packs of playing cards according to my  
invention is that the coordination of two or more designs on the  
35 backs of two or more cards correlates with a coordination of the  
designs on the faces of those cards, in accordance with an  
appropriate set of predetermined design criteria.

Within this general concept, a very wide variety of new types of  
40 packs of playing cards can be devised. By way

AMENDED SHEET

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CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for playing a game comprising a pack of playing cards having a set of differentiated face designs on the playing card faces being a conventional or substantially conventional set of playing card markings; rules to determine the method of game play; and characterised in that a number of the playing card backs possess markings that are coordinated with the face designs found on the playing cards to enable the formation of a different type of set based on the markings found on the playing card backs, as determined by the rules of game play.
2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the markings on the playing card backs comprise an outer portion identical on each card and an inner portion coordinated with face designs found on the playing cards.
3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the markings on each of the playing card backs can be selected from the group comprising:
- 1) a selected sentence or group of sentences of a poem to be arranged in a set to form a completed poem;
  - 2) selected frames of a cartoon strip to be arranged in a set to form the completed cartoon strip;
  - 3) selected images to be arranged in a set to form a completed image of a commercial product.
4. Apparatus according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the pack comprises 52 cards and the face markings

AMENDED SHEET



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are four suits of ace to king markings.

5. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the rules dictate *inter alia* that the playing cards are dealt out face down in a conventional manner to each player in rotation one card on top of another to completely obscure the markings on the previous dealt card.
6. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the rules *inter alia* dictate that scoring during the course of game play is dependent not only upon the number of tricks that a player collects at the end of a round (determined by the face design of the playing cards), but also on how many of the completed sets (based upon the markings on the backs of the cards) are formed during each of the tricks at the end of a round.

AMENDED SHEET

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>23734</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/GB 00/ 00620</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>22/02/2000</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>22/02/1999</b>
Applicant <b>WOOD, Ramsay</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

## 1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☒ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

## 4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

## 5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

## 6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/GB 00/00620

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-5  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Rule 39.1(iii) PCT - Scheme, rules and method for playing games
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A63F1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 A63F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 428 582 A (SMITH WILLIAM) 31 January 1984 (1984-01-31)	1
A	column 1, line 44 - line 58; figure 1 ---	2,3
A	US 4 402 513 A (HEAD ROBERT M) 6 September 1983 (1983-09-06) column 1, line 42 - line 58 column 2, line 33 - line 61 ---	1-3
A	US 5 011 146 A (LAMLE STEWART M) 30 April 1991 (1991-04-30) the whole document ---	1
A	US 4 728 108 A (NEUWAHL NICOLAAS) 1 March 1988 (1988-03-01) figures -----	1-3

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 July 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

10.07.00

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lucas, P

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

T/GB 00/00620

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4428582	A	31-01-1984	NONE	
US 4402513	A	06-09-1983	NONE	
US 5011146	A	30-04-1991	NONE	
US 4728108	A	01-03-1988	IT 218768 Z	24-07-1992

**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> :</b> <b>A63F 1/02</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 00/50134</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 31 August 2000 (31.08.00)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/GB00/00620 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 22 February 2000 (22.02.00)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 9904031.3                      22 February 1999 (22.02.99)                      GB  <b>(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor:</b> WOOD, Ramsay [GB/GB]; 182 Fordwych Road, London NW2 3NX (GB).  <b>(74) Agent:</b> GALLAFENT & CO; 9 Staple Inn, London WC1V 7QH (GB).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> PLAYING CARDS  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  Packs of playing cards described in which backs are not all identical, but rather can be different, but sets of backs can be coordinated with one another and that coordination can in turn match, in accordance with appropriate rules, coordination of the faces of the cards. For example, a run of point values of the same suit on the faces of the cards can correlate with a run of sections of a poem or image printed across the backs of several cards. A very wide variety of new, entertaining and educational card games can thus be constructed.		

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

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CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
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EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

### PLAYING CARDS

This invention relates to playing cards and, in particular, to bifunctional packs of playing cards which  
5 may be used to play a variety of entertaining and stimulating card games as well as acting as an informative advertising and educational medium, compendium or catalogue.

10 Playing cards have been known for centuries and in a very wide variety. A pack of playing cards conventionally consists of a set of individual cards of which one side of each card (the back) is identical throughout the pack,  
15 the other side of each card (the face) bearing one among a variety of different designs. The classical "standard playing card" pack consists of fifty-two cards where the fifty two different face designs consist of four "suits", conventionally called clubs, diamonds, hearts and spades, and where each suit (of thirteen cards) has a number or  
20 character associated with it, conventionally ace, two to ten, Jack, Queen and King. Additionally, some playing card games require extra cards having a special symbol on them (conventionally called a Joker) which, according to the rules of the game being played, may substitute for a



- 2 -

variety of other cards, or may have its own particular role in the game played.

5 The identical back sides of the cards in a pack are identical predominantly in order that a card player may hold the cards, usually in a single hand and fanned out, with the identical backs visible to the other players and the different face designs visible only to the player holding the cards. Since the other players can see the  
10 backs, the backs all need to be identical in order that the other players cannot detect what cards the player holding the cards is holding.

15 This arrangement of identical backs is effectively necessary for competitive card playing games (especially where the game is played for pecuniary gain), but is not of any particular value in games played for entertainment. I have now found that a variety of entertaining games may be produced by constructing a set  
20 of playing cards with the face sides bearing their conventional, or relatively conventional, set of markings and the backs bearing differing designs, but which are coordinated with the designs on the faces in a predetermined fashion. The precise fashion may depend  
25 upon the nature of the game to be played with the cards. Thus, the distinguishing feature of packs of playing cards according to my invention is that the coordination of two or more designs on the backs of two or more cards correlates with a coordination of the designs on the  
30 faces of those cards, in accordance with an appropriate set of predetermined design criteria.

Within this general concept, a very wide variety of new types of packs of playing cards can be devised. By way

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of example, the backs of some of the cards (or, of course, all of them) may bear words, and the arrangement of the words on the backs of the cards may be such that when the cards are assembled in accordance with a rule  
5 applying to the markings on the faces of the cards, the wording on the backs of the assembly of cards is coordinated, e.g. to construct a sentence or sentences, a message of some other sort, or a poem - for example a Clerihew, Haiku or some other short form.

10

Thus, it is possible, for example, to conceive of a set of playing cards with conventional ace to King markings on their faces and a series of short lines on their backs such that a conventional four-card trick such as is  
15 constructed during the course of a game of Bridge or Whist may constitute a quatrain such as a Clerihew, or three of them may be arranged to provide a Haiku fitting the classical rules for the construction of Haiku. One can then envisage scoring being dependent not merely on  
20 the number of tricks which a player collects at the end of a round, but additionally on how many of the sets of three or four cards, when assembled in appropriate order (e.g. rising or descending card face value) form a correctly structured Clerihew or Haiku. A correctly  
25 structured Clerihew formed from a set of four cards of which the face values are not all of the same suit might score a bonus.

30

In an alternative, sets of cards having face values in sequence may have on their backs individual sections of a complete poem. In such cases, it is often convenient to print, as well as wording, some indication on the backs of the cards as to whether a section of text constitutes the beginning, ending or middle portion of a poem which

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can be assembled by collecting a sequence of cards using a conventional set of game-playing rules, e.g. that of a stock pile and discard pile from which each player may pick in turn followed by a discard.

5

The coordination on the backs of the cards is not limited to text images, but may be, for example, a set of pictorial or visual images or mix of graphics, text and image which, for example, when assembled in sequence, could form a short "comic strip" or reflect some other pattern, sequence or relationship. Alternatively the assembly may be essentially visual with the cards, when placed together, showing an overall image made up of a number of sub-images, such as one commercial product in a range of such products. The placement of commercial material on the backs of the cards leads to potential commercial gain to organisations, companies or individuals who use the medium to advertise their products or services. Furthermore, the incorporation of a corporate, educational, governmental or other web site address along one edge of each card effectively reminds solo or group players 54 times per pack of the specific telecommunications link to each organisation's, company's or individual's richer store of further detail regarding the subject matter of each pack, or general information about the organisation, company or individual.

Working on the general basis of coordinating material on the backs and coordinating material on the faces of the cards, an enormously wide variety of packs of cards may be developed with associated "rules for play", with a consequent provision of both enjoyment, education (both academic and commercial) and amusement to the card players.

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The inter-relationship of the backs and fronts of packs of cards in accordance with the present invention may be achieved by simple physical sorting of a set of backs on to a set of fronts, or it is possible to write relatively simple and straightforward computer programs to distribute the designs for the backs appropriately coordinated with the standard designs on the faces. In order to provide basic familiarity, it is preferred that the designs on the faces are relatively straightforward standard four suit card designs.

If it is desired to enable the cards to be used in competitive play, the differing designs on the backs of the cards may be restricted in area compared to the area of the entire card back so that a fan of cards shows only the back of the endmost one, i.e. the roughly chevron-shaped or L-shaped non-overlap areas all look the same. Of course, if such cards are dealt out in conventional fashion - to each player in rotation, one card on top of another, face down - a skilled observer can detect in which hand cards are, but not very easily. During play, the back of the card in the fan furthest from the player holding the fan may be easily obscured by the player's hand. However, if desired, feats of memory could be part of the rules of group play, so that the more face values a player could correctly memorise and reproduce from the differing back texts or images, the higher would be his final score, and - if the items so correctly memorised were products or educational or other promoted material - the higher the pleasure of the organisation, company or individual whose material is printed on the pack.

Accordingly, in a specific embodiment, a pack of playing cards according to the present invention has a set of

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differentiated face designs on the card faces and on the card backs a set of designs, each consisting of an outer portion identical on each card and inner portions which differ from card to card and which are coordinated with

5 the designs on the faces as set out above.

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CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for playing a game comprising a pack of playing cards having a set of differentiated face designs on the playing card faces; rules to determine the method of game play; and wherein; a number of the playing card backs possess markings that are coordinated with the face designs found on the playing cards to enable the formation of a different type of set based on the markings found on the playing card backs, as determined by the rules of game play.
2. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the markings on the playing card backs comprise an outer portion identical on each card and an inner portion coordinated with face designs found on the playing cards.
3. Apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the markings on each of the playing card backs can be selected from the group comprising:
- 1) a selected sentence or group of sentences of a poem to be arranged in a set to form a completed poem;
  - 2) selected frames of a cartoon strip to be arranged in a set to form the completed cartoon strip;
  - 3) selected images to be arranged in a set to form a completed image of a commercial product.
4. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the rules dictate *inter alia* that the playing cards are dealt out face down in a conventional manner to each player in rotation one card on top of another to

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completely obscure the markings on the previous dealt card.

5. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding Claims wherein the rules *inter alia* dictate that scoring during the course of game play is dependent not only upon the number of tricks that a player collects at the end of a round (determined by the face design of the playing cards), but also on how many of the completed sets (based upon the markings on the backs of the cards) are formed during each of the tricks at the end of a round.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/00620

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A63F1/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A63F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 428 582 A (SMITH WILLIAM) 31 January 1984 (1984-01-31)	1
A	column 1, line 44 - line 58; figure 1 ---	2,3
A	US 4 402 513 A (HEAD ROBERT M) 6 September 1983 (1983-09-06) column 1, line 42 - line 58 column 2, line 33 - line 61 ---	1-3
A	US 5 011 146 A (LAMLE STEWART M) 30 April 1991 (1991-04-30) the whole document ---	1
A	US 4 728 108 A (NEUWAHL NICOLAAS) 1 March 1988 (1988-03-01) figures -----	1-3

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 July 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

10.07.00

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/GB 00/00620

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 4-5  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Rule 39.1(iii) PCT - Scheme, rules and method for playing games
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/00620

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4428582	A	31-01-1984	NONE	
US 4402513	A	06-09-1983	NONE	
US 5011146	A	30-04-1991	NONE	
US 4728108	A	01-03-1988	IT 218768 Z	24-07-1992